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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of  
Information

# Selected Speeches and News Releases

September 21 - September 28, 1989

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# News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

## USDA CHANGES PORK ORDER IMPORT ASSESSMENTS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will decrease assessments on imported pork and pork products by three-to-five-hundredths of a cent per pound, or the equivalent of seven-to eleven-hundredths of a cent per kilogram, effective Monday, Oct. 23.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the lower assessments reflect the 15-percent decrease in hog prices paid at major U.S. markets this past year. The assessment adjustment is authorized by the Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1985, he said. The rate of assessment, one-quarter of one percent of market price, remains unchanged.

"Assessments on imported pork and pork products are established by formula each year, based on U.S. market prices for hogs," Haley said. "This change brings importer assessments more in line with those being paid by domestic producers."

The changes appeared today as a final rule in the Federal Register. Copies and additional information may be obtained from Ralph L. Tapp, Chief, Marketing Programs and Procurement Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2610-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

Jacque Lee (202) 447-6179

#

## CHAMBERS TEST CROPS FOR POLLUTION TOLERANCE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22—Giant open-topped plastic chambers dotting the fields at Beltsville, Md., may look like a backyard gardener's oversized plant shelters or perhaps circular greenhouses. But, in fact, it's a whole other world inside those round plastic walls.

Within the 30 chambers, wheat, soybean and corn plants must work especially hard to draw a breath as U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists push up levels of ozone, carbon dioxide and other pollutants in the chambers' air.

Their goal: to see how today's crops might perform in tomorrow's potential pollution.

American farmers lose to air pollution an estimated \$3 billion a year in damaged crops, according to Edward H. Lee, a plant physiologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Lee is conducting the growth experiments in chambers measuring about 7-1/2 feet tall and about 10 feet in diameter at the agency's Beltsville center. He started the experiments in early June to coincide with the crops' growing season.

"If we can get a handle on what controls the changes in plants under these conditions," Lee said, "we could go to plant breeders and say, 'This is the genetic material—find it and breed it into the plants for the 21st century.'

Lee says it has been calculated that cutting just one of the pollutants, ozone, in the lower portion of the atmosphere, by 10 percent would save farmers \$808 million in 1982 dollars, a total that would be even higher in 1989 dollars. He says a 25 percent reduction in ozone pollution could boost American farmers' income \$1.89 billion annually, and a 40 percent reduction would mean an extra \$2.78 billion for agricultural producers.

"Ozone in the stratosphere (the upper part of the atmosphere) serves as a filter to take out the ultraviolet radiation associated with tanning and skin cancer," Lee notes in the new issue of Agricultural Research magazine. "But fluorocarbons and some hydrocarbons get into the stratosphere, cause ozone depletion and let in more of this ultraviolet radiation, called UV-B."

"Our study is to look at all three variables—an increase in carbon dioxide, high levels of pollution, and several levels of UV-B. High carbon dioxide causes plants to grow faster, and it thickens their leaves. But will that make them less vulnerable to the effects of UV-B? We don't know yet."

Joining Lee in the growth chamber experiments are plant physiologist Donald T. Krizek at Beltsville and Charles L. Mulchi of the University of Maryland Department of Agronomy at College Park, Md.

"Whatever we find will help get an idea of how major crops will grow under these conditions," Lee says. "Another part of the study will look at the internal mechanisms of plants to adapt to these changes."

Sandy Miller Hays (301) 344-4089

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## **1989 CROP SOYBEAN LOAN RATE \$4.53 PER BUSHEL**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced the final price support loan and purchase rate for 1989 crop soybeans is \$4.53 per bushel.

The 1989 final rate is the same as the preliminary rate announced previously.

All producers of 1989 crop soybeans will be eligible for loans and purchases.

The basic loan and purchase rate of \$4.53 per bushel is based upon a formula prescribed by statute. The statute also provides discretionary authority to reduce the rate up to an additional five percent, but not below \$4.50 per bushel, to maintain competitiveness.

Soybeans are not eligible for the farmer-owned reserve programs or for storage payments.

A regulatory impact analysis on the 1989 soybean program may be obtained from: Director, Commodity Analysis Division, USDA/ASCS, Room 3741-S, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013.

For additional information contact: Orville Overboe, telephone (202) 447-4418.

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

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## **YEUTTER ANNOUNCES PORK BELLIES WILL BE PROVIDED TO POLAND**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22—Between 7,000 and 10,000 metric tons of pork bellies will be donated to the government of the Polish People's Republic, Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter announced today. Yeutter said the donation is part of President Bush's Sept. 14 pledge to provide additional food and commodity aid to the people of Poland.

"Today's donation will help ease food shortages and high prices facing the Polish people at this time," Yeutter said. "In consultations with USDA officials, the Polish government requested pork product donations to help meet current critical food needs facing the country."

USDA expects to tender for pork bellies in the near future, he said. In the next several days, U.S. government officials will consult with the Polish government to determine time of delivery. Yeutter said, however,

that delivery will likely be during the winter months when food shortages may be aggravated by severe weather conditions.

The President's announcement on Sept. 14 brought the total value of food aid pledged by the United States to Poland to \$108.4 million, most of which will be shipped during fiscal 1990.

The pork bellies are being donated under the Food for Progress program, which was authorized in the 1985 Farm Bill. It provides opportunities to use U.S. food resources more effectively in support of countries making commitments to introduce or expand free enterprise elements in their agricultural economies.

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

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## NEW, FASTER-GROWING HYDRILLA FOUND

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—As waterweeds go, hydrilla ranks high on the obnoxious list. But, a new hydrilla that grows faster could take it past obnoxious to notorious.

“Unlike the old hydrilla that is only female, this one has both male and female flowers on the same plant,” said Thai K. Van, a plant physiologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service.

The new weed can reproduce sexually, he said, mixing female and male genes. That results in new genes and combinations of genes, which makes for a weed that can better adapt to the environment—especially in cooler states.

In contrast, the female plants grow vegetatively to produce identical copies, he said. They tend to stick to southern climes.

Hydrilla—old and new—grows from 2 to 4 inches a day, forming strands 10 to 15 feet long, Van said. If left uncontrolled, dense mats of the weed can block the water flow in rivers, interfere with irrigation and flood controls and entangle swimmers, boaters and fishing lines.

As new hydrilla appears in a waterway, Van said, some improvement in water quality and fishing may occur. But the weed can multiply in “significant numbers in a habitat” so that in the long run it takes over ponds, lakes and rivers. Its excessive growth uses up all the oxygen in a pond, killing fish and eventually even the pond itself, the scientist said.

"Until we found these new weeds in 1982," Van said, "only female hydrillas were thought to occur in the United States." Hydrilla, whether female or the new kind, is on the federal noxious weeds list.

He started lab studies on how the weed reproduces. To grow new plants, both hydrillas produce tubers in the soil. Usually the female plants grow the tubers during the winter since the weed needs long, dark nights to form them.

But, Van found, the new hydrilla can form tubers during the summer months, even though the night is shorter. "This means it can survive in areas with a shorter growing season, like in the northern United States," he said. Van discovered this reproductive secret last year when he grew hydrilla under 10 and 16 hours of light in large outdoor aquaria at the ARS Aquatic Weed Control Research Laboratory in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

He found that male-female weeds (called monoecious) took half the time—only four weeks—to bear five to seven times more tubers than the female (dioecious) weed.

"If that's not bad enough," said Van, "the two weeds have different growth patterns, even though they look the same."

He said the female hydrilla "quickly grows towards a lake or pond's surface, shading out all other plants. On the other hand, the new type starts to form lateral branches that grow along the bottom."

When scientists survey an area, he said, "they can't see that the weed has started to take over, and by the time it reaches the surface, it's a much bigger problem."

The original weed was introduced to Florida in the 1950's, probably from Asia, and has now spread to more than a dozen states from Florida to California. It has started to grow in recent years in the Potomac River bordering Washington, D.C.

According to Van, the new hydrilla was also imported to the United States, but plant physiologists haven't identified the source.

ARS scientists at the aquatic weeds laboratories in Fort Lauderdale and Davis, Calif., are working on methods to control the weed, including residue-free herbicides, shining lights on the weeds at night and natural controls such as insects and fish.

"Understanding the biology of this new form of hydrilla is essential to develop controls," said Van.

Fort Lauderdale researchers in the early 1980's conducted overseas searches in India, Burma, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Phillipines, Kenya and Australia for potential insect controls for hydrilla. Ted D.

Center, an entomologist who leads the biological control research, said a few promising biocontrol insects have been imported for study.

He said two of these insects—a weevil and a leaf-mining fly—have been released in Florida, where they are being monitored. Scientists want to see how well the insects become established and prove effective in suppressing hydrilla.

Over the years, the Fort Lauderdale laboratory has been successful in introducing effective insect biocontrols against alligatorweed, water-hyacinth and waterlettuce.

Dvora Aksler Konstant (301) 344-3108

Issued: Sept. 25, 1989

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## **USDA'S OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION ISSUES REPORT ON RURAL BRIDGES**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—Rural bridges tend to be older than urban bridges, and a higher percentage have functional or structural inadequacies, according to a report issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Although responsibility for rural bridges varies from state to state, local governments are responsible for a majority of the deficient or obsolete rural bridges, said Martin "Buzz" Fitzpatrick, Jr., administrator of USDA's Office of Transportation. "Various and complex bridge funding and management arrangements exist throughout the United States," he said. "This means that future improvements will require continued intergovernmental support, along with policies that acknowledge the importance of rural bridges to the nation's economy."

The OT analysis focuses on various characteristics of rural highway bridges. It is derived from the most comprehensive single source of data concerning the nation's highway bridges—the National Bridge Inventory (NBI), which is maintained by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. As of Dec. 31, 1988, the NBI contained information about 578,094 highway bridges, 81 percent of which were classified as rural.

The report, "Rural Bridges: An Assessment Based Upon the National Bridge Inventory," compares rural and urban bridges on such factors as age, bridge length, construction material, bridge condition and proposed bridge improvement. Also, the report presents rural bridge characteristics on a state-by-state basis, including bridges located on and off the federal-aid system as well as bridges located in counties with an economic dependence on agriculture.

Larry Mark (202) 447-3977

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## **USDA SHIPS EMERGENCY FOOD TO HURRICANE VICTIMS IN U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**WASHINGTON**, Sept. 25—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has begun shipping more than 1.6 million pounds of food to the U.S. Virgin Islands to aid an estimated 70,000 victims of Hurricane Hugo, Acting Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder said today.

The food shipments, which are being coordinated by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and U.S. Air Force authorities, are in response to USDA on-site reports of the disaster situation and a request for emergency assistance from Virgin Islands Governor Alexander Farrelly.

Crowder said that \$9 million has been authorized for food assistance to victims of the hurricane in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The funds will be used to purchase foods to supplement USDA commodities currently in schools and warehouses in the regions.

Crowder said the Air Force airlifted an initial shipment of food to the Virgin Islands on Saturday, Sept. 23, to supplement limited food supplies there. The food was taken from food program stocks in Kansas City, which will be replenished by USDA at a later date, he said.

Stockpiles of USDA foods were not damaged in Puerto Rico and are being released to disaster victims as necessary.

Additional food assistance funds are expected to be approved to aid hurricane victims in South Carolina. USDA food stocks already in storage in South Carolina are being used to aid disaster victims, and USDA is working with relief officials to assess the scope of the state's needs, Crowder said.

In addition to USDA food assistance to U.S. Caribbean territories, a private company, Ross Laboratories, last week donated 38,000 pounds of ready-to-feed infant formula to hurricane victims in St. Croix. USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and Forest Service handled transportation of the formula to the Virgin Islands.

Funding for the emergency assistance is provided for by Section 32 of Public Law 74-320, a special appropriations fund upon which the secretary of agriculture can draw for disaster relief.

Phil Shanholtzer (703) 756-3286

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## USDA'S OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION ISSUES REPORT ON SMALL RAILROADS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26—How important are small railroads to agriculture and rural America?

According to a report just issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Transportation, small railroads play a vital role in supplying farm communities and in the marketing of rural and agricultural products.

As defined in the report, small railroads include local freight lines that earn less than \$20 million annually and operate less than 350 miles of track; and regional freight lines that earn between \$20 and \$87 million annually, operate at least 350 miles of track, and are not Class I railroads. At the end of 1988, there were 294 local railroads operating 13,675 miles of track and 24 regional railroads operating 12,151 miles of track.

"Forty-five percent of all grain transported moves by rail, and an increasing share of this transportation starts on small railroads," said Martin "Buzz" Fitzpatrick, OT administrator. "Farm products are among the principal commodities hauled by local railroads, while lumber and wood products are the top commodities transported by regional railroads."

The number and mileage of small railroads began to increase in the 1970s but really surged ahead in the mid-1980s. For instance, the mileage of small railroads increased 6,500 miles in 1987, about three times the net increase of just two years before. "However, future growth in the local and regional railroad movement probably will be determined by the

outcome of court rulings as to the rights of rail labor in branch line sales and in transactions that create new railroads," Fitzpatrick said.

"USDA is interested in the development of small railroads," he said, "because of their growing importance to agriculture and rural America. This report presents information on the historical development of small railroads, the current policy issues affecting them, and the unique interest of agricultural and rural communities in their continued viability."

Larry Mark (202) 447-3977

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## **RUSSIAN WHEAT APHIDS SAP GRAIN CROPS OF DROUGHT RESISTANCE**

**WASHINGTON**, Sept. 27—The Russian wheat aphid, a growing pest in sixteen western states, can inflict serious drought-like damage to grain crops such as barley and wheat, even in the face of ample soil moisture around the roots.

U.S. Department of Agriculture studies have found that the aphid suppresses a plant's ability to produce two natural compounds that help it cope with drought.

"What may appear to be drought stress in the field may in fact be an infestation of Russian wheat aphids," said Walter E. Riedell, a plant physiologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service. "That's partly because rolled-up leaves—typical of drought stress—are also a symptom of aphid infestation."

In tests at the agency's Northern Grain Insects Research Laboratory in Brookings, S.D., Riedell found reduced amounts of the compounds glycinebetaine and proline in barley plants that had been attacked by the insects and subjected to water stress.

The compounds are believed to help plants store water during dry conditions, he said.

Riedell placed aphids on 180 plants for seven days, then removed the insects. Seven days later, he subjected one-third of these plants and 60 uninfested plants to stress tests in which they were denied water.

Healthy plants regulate their water uptake according to the amount of moisture available. But leaves of the infested plants quickly became dehydrated, and the plants never fully recovered their capacity to take up and store water—even with moisture available to their roots.

Searching for an explanation, Riedell discovered the lower levels of the natural compounds.

"We're not sure why the two compounds are lower but it may have to do with a toxin injected into the plants by the aphid when it feeds," he said. "The toxin, possibly a digestive enzyme, may cause the plants to produce lower levels of these two compounds."

He plans studies to identify the toxin and determine its effects.

Since its discovery in the Texas panhandle in March 1986, the Russian wheat aphid has spread to 15 other states and three Canadian provinces. It cost U.S. farmers an estimated \$123 million in 1988. Besides barley and wheat, the aphid is a major pest of rye and oats.

ARS efforts to combat the aphid include:

- Searching foreign countries for natural enemies;
- Conducting lab and field tests with promising biological control agents, such as wasps agency scientists collected in Turkey;
- Developing aphid-resistant crop varieties;
- Investigating fungi that live inside some grasses and were recently found to ward off the aphids; and
- Creating computer simulations so potential control strategies can be assessed.

Matt Bosisio (309) 685-4011

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## NO-CALORIE, HIGH-FIBER FLOUR ADDITIVE WINS NEW TECHNOLOGY AWARD

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28—A no-calorie, high-fiber flour additive, made by U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists from cereal crops and farm byproducts, was selected today as one of the 100 most significant new technologies of 1989 by Research & Development magazine.

Chemist J. Michael Gould and a team of scientists at the Peoria, Ill., Northern Regional Research Center of USDA's Agricultural Research Service developed the technology.

The flour additive can boost the content of dietary insoluble fiber in prepared foods such as pancake and cake mixes, doughnuts, cookies, bread and other foods without affecting taste or texture, Gould said.

"And the fiber does not add calories," he added. "We found we could make a white bread that looks, feels and tastes like any other white bread but which has as much dietary fiber as whole wheat bread and fewer calories than other white bread."

The fiber can replace 30 to 50 percent of the flour used in baked goods and prepared mixes. Tests found it reduced the calories in an average slice of chocolate cake by 25 percent while giving it as much dietary fiber as a bowl of high-fiber breakfast cereal.

The R&D 100 Award will be presented tonight at a formal banquet at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. A display panel detailing the technology will be exhibited at the Chicago museum for one month.

Research on the fiber, by members of the ARS' plant polymer and vegetable oil research groups, began five years ago. The researchers were searching for ways to open new markets for farm products.

The flour is made by using a dilute solution of hydrogen peroxide to break down the lignin in plant materials such as wheat and oat bran and fruit and vegetable pulp. Lignin is the woody substance that binds plant cell walls.

The technology has been licensed to two companies that will sell the product to firms making fiber-rich foods. Canadian Harvest USA—a joint partnership of Du Pont Co. of Wilmington, Del., and ConAgra, Inc. of Omaha, Neb.—produces a flour from oat hulls at its plant in Cambridge, Minn.

The second firm licensed, Mt. Pulaski Products of Mt. Pulaski, Ill., makes a flour from corn fiber.

Members of the research team included in the award are Gould, who served as lead scientist of the project; biologist Lee B. Dexter; chemical engineer Brian K. Jasberg and food technologist Kathleen A. Warner.

Matt Bosisio (309) 685-4011

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## USDA RELEASES COST OF FOOD AT HOME FOR AUGUST

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28—Here is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's monthly update of the weekly cost of food at home for August 1989:

## Cost of food at home for a week in August 1989

	Food plans (In Dollars)		
	Thrifty	Low-cost	Moderate cost
Families:			
Family of 2 (20-50 years)	45.20	56.60	70.10
Family of 2 (51 years and over)	42.70	54.40	67.10
Family of 4 with preschool children	65.70	81.40	99.70
Family of 4 with elemen- tary schoolchildren	75.40	95.70	119.90
			122.30
			144.30
Individuals in four-person families:			
Children:			
1-2 years	11.80	14.30	16.70
3-5 years	12.80	15.60	19.30
6-8 years	15.70	20.70	25.90
9-11 years	18.60	23.50	30.30
			35.00
Females:			
12-19 years	19.40	23.10	28.10
20-50 years	19.50	24.10	29.30
51 and over	19.20	23.40	28.90
			33.90
			37.50
			34.60
Males:			
12-14 years	19.50	26.70	33.40
15-19 years	20.20	27.60	34.30
20-50 years	21.60	27.40	34.40
51 and over	19.60	26.10	32.10
			39.10
			39.80
			41.60
			38.50

USDA's Human Nutrition Information Service computes the cost of food at home for four food plans—thrifty, low-cost, moderate-cost, and liberal.

Dr. James T. Heimbach, acting administrator of the Human Nutrition Information Service, said the plans consist of foods that provide well-balanced meals and snacks for a week.

In computing the costs, USDA assumes all food is bought at the store and prepared at home. Costs do not include alcoholic beverages, pet food, soap, cigarettes, paper goods, and other nonfood items bought at the store.

“USDA costs are only guides to spending,” Heimbach said. “Families may spend more or less, depending on such factors as where they buy their food, how carefully they plan and buy, whether some food is produced at home, what foods the family likes, and how much food is prepared at home.

“Most families will find the moderate-cost or low-cost plan suitable,” he said. “The thrifty plan, which USDA uses to set the coupon allotment in the food stamp program, is for families who have tighter budgets. Families with unlimited resources might use the liberal plan.”

To use the chart to estimate your family's food costs:

—For members eating all meals at home—or carried from home—use the amounts shown in the chart.

—For members eating some meals out, deduct 5 percent from the amount shown for each meal not eaten at home. Thus, for a person eating lunch out 5 days a week, subtract 25 percent, or one-fourth the cost shown.

—For guests, add 5 percent of the amount shown for the proper age group for each meal.

Costs in the second part of the chart are for individuals in four-person families. If your family has more or less than four, total the “individual” figures and make these adjustments, because larger families tend to buy and use food more economically than smaller ones:

- For a one-person family, add 20 percent.
- For a two-person family, add 10 percent.
- For a three-person family, add 5 percent.
- For a five or six-person family, subtract 5 percent.
- For a family of seven or more, subtract 10 percent.

Details of the four family food plans are available from the Nutrition Education Division, HNIS, USDA, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Johna Pierce (301) 436-8617

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## **REA OFFERS EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID TO HURRICANE-DAMAGED RURAL AREAS**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Electrification Administration is prepared to provide the necessary financial resources to repair and rebuild rural electric and telephone systems which suffered severe damage from Hurricane Hugo, according to REA acting administrator Jack Van Mark.

Loans will be made to restore power and communication links to hundreds and thousands of rural customers who are served by REA borrowers in hurricane-damaged areas of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, North Carolina and South Carolina.

REA is coordinating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide technical expertise regarding damage assessment and cost estimates to restore service. Four REA representatives will make on-site inspections in Puerto Rico and western North Carolina.

Created in 1935, REA assists organizations in obtaining the financing required to extend electric and telephone service in rural areas. REA has loaned or guaranteed almost \$61 billion to support electrification and telephony in the nation's rural areas.

Ruth Ann Hockett (202) 382-1255

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## **USDA SETS OUTLOOK CONFERENCE FOR NOV. 28-30**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28—Outlook '90, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 66th Annual Outlook Conference, will take place here Nov. 28-30, Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter announced today.

"This outlook conference comes at a critical time for American agriculture," Yeutter said. "The outcome of trade negotiations, farm legislation, and health and food safety regulations now pending will help

to shape U.S. agriculture for the next decade. I look forward to a lively debate on these issues at Outlook '90."

Outlook '90 will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at USDA headquarters, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W. A keynote address by Yeutter will be followed by overviews of the 1990 budgetary, economic and agricultural prospects and a high-level session on environmental and food safety issues for agriculture.

Forecasts for major farm commodities, including grains, oilseeds, livestock, sweeteners, tobacco, produce, fibers and forest products, will highlight Wednesday, Nov. 29. Breakout sessions will cover such current topics as rural development policies, alternative agriculture, biotechnology, water quality, food prices and nutrition.

Plenary sessions Thursday morning, Nov. 30, will start with the economic implications of a changing world. Then Yeutter and other policy leaders will discuss international trade negotiations and 1990 farm legislation. A panel on farm credit is also planned for Thursday with members from both the public and private sectors. The conference will adjourn at 12:45 p.m.

Registration is free. For program and registration details, including information on ordering audio tape cassettes of Outlook '90, and a printed proceedings and chartbook, telephone (202) 447-3050, or write Outlook '90, Room 5143-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-3900.

## OUTLOOK '90 PROGRAM (PRELIMINARY)

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

TUESDAY, NOV. 28

Location: Jefferson Auditorium

P.M.

12:30 Opening; Keynote Address by Secretary Clayton Yeutter; Economic Outlook  
2:15 U.S. and World Agricultural and Trade Outlook  
3:30 Critical Environmental and Food Safety Issues for Agriculture in the 1990's  
5:15 Reception in Patio of USDA's Administration Building

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29

Location: Jeff. Aud.	107-A	3501-S	1605-S	Cafeteria
<b>A.M.</b>				
8:30	Food Grains	Rural Development Initiatives	Forest Products	Aquaculture
10:30	Feed Grains	Transporta- tion	Tobacco	Food Prices and Nutrition Alternatives in Agriculture

LUNCH

P.M.

1:30 Oilseeds Fruits and Family Biotechnology  
3:15 Livestock Vegetables Economics  
and Poultry Cotton Water Quality Sugar and  
Sweeteners

THURSDAY, NOV. 30

Location: Jefferson Auditorium 107-A Cafeteria

A.M.

8:30 Global Change: Climatic and Economic Farm Sector  
Implications for Agriculture Economic Prospects Dairy  
Products  
10:15 Trade and Agricultural Policies for the 1990's  
Part 1—International Trade Negotiations  
Part 2—Leadership Panel on Agricultural Policy

P.M.

12:45 Conference Adjourns

NOTE TO EDITORS: USDA will provide a press room during the conference for information, contact: Diane Decker (202) 786-1494.

Raymond L. Bridge (202) 447-5447  
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